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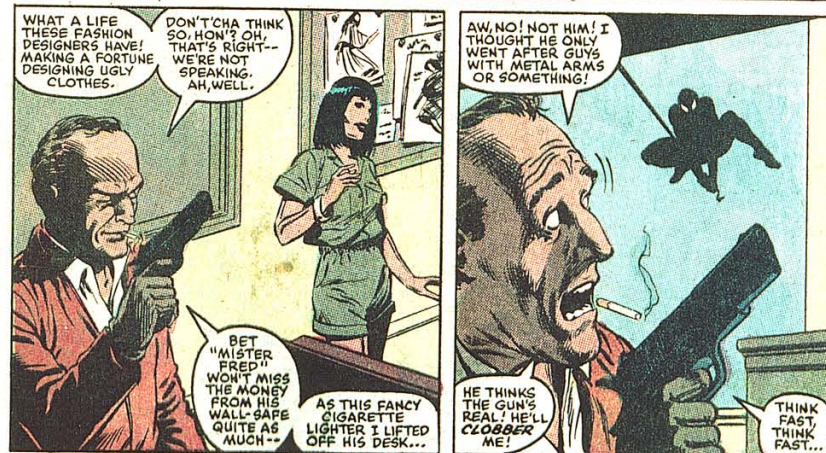
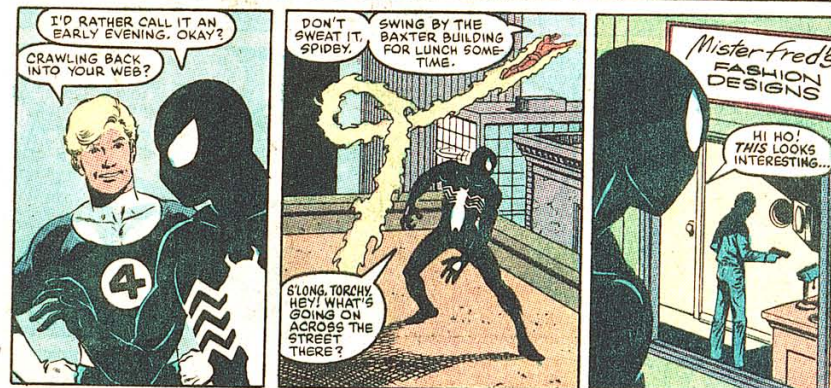
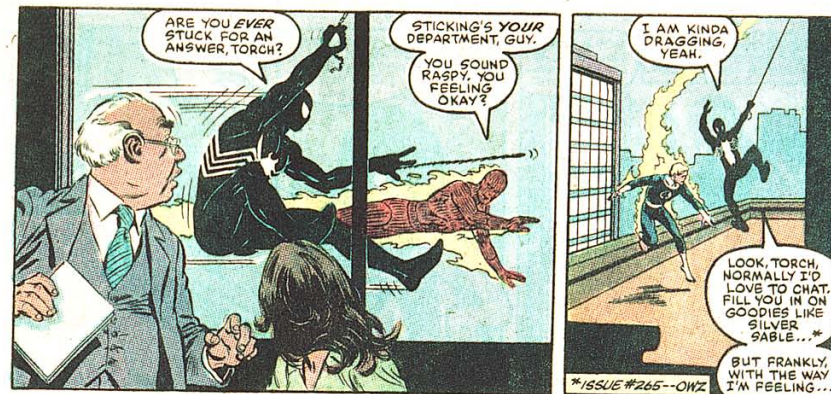
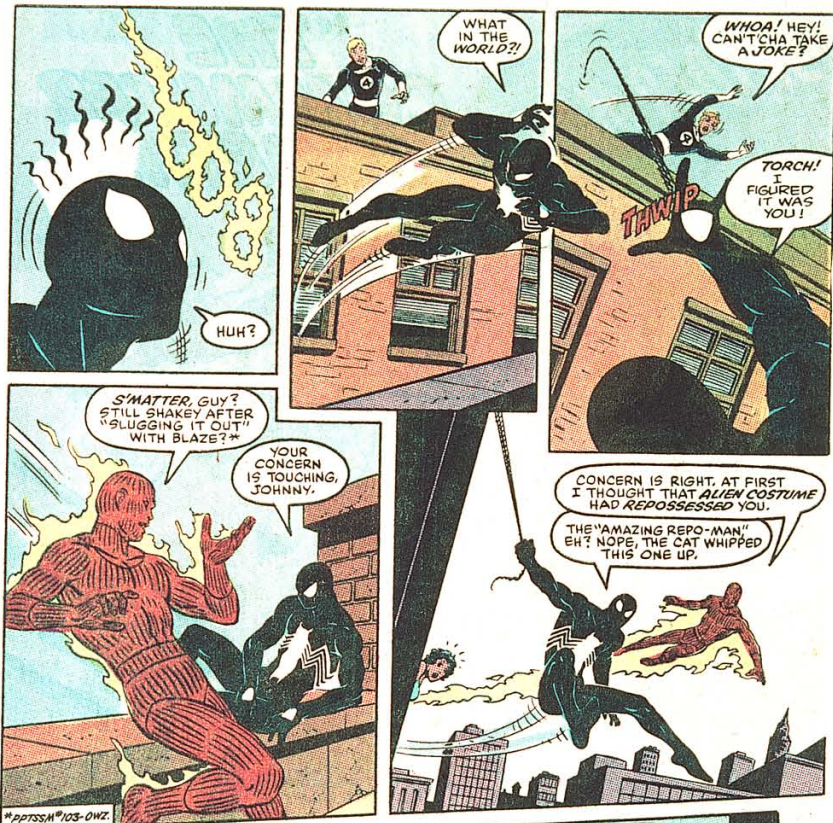
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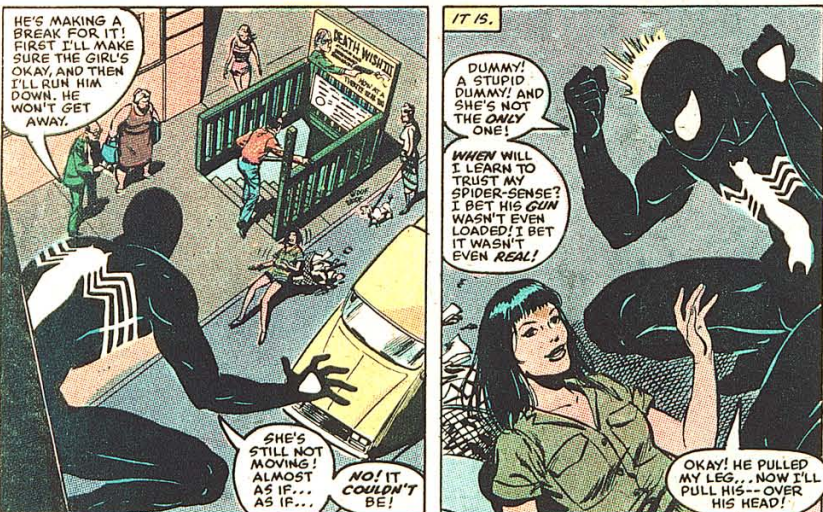


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Clear is better.



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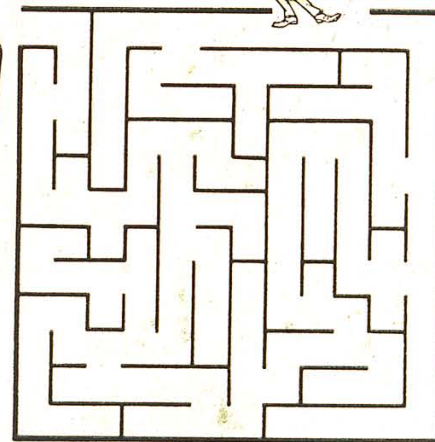




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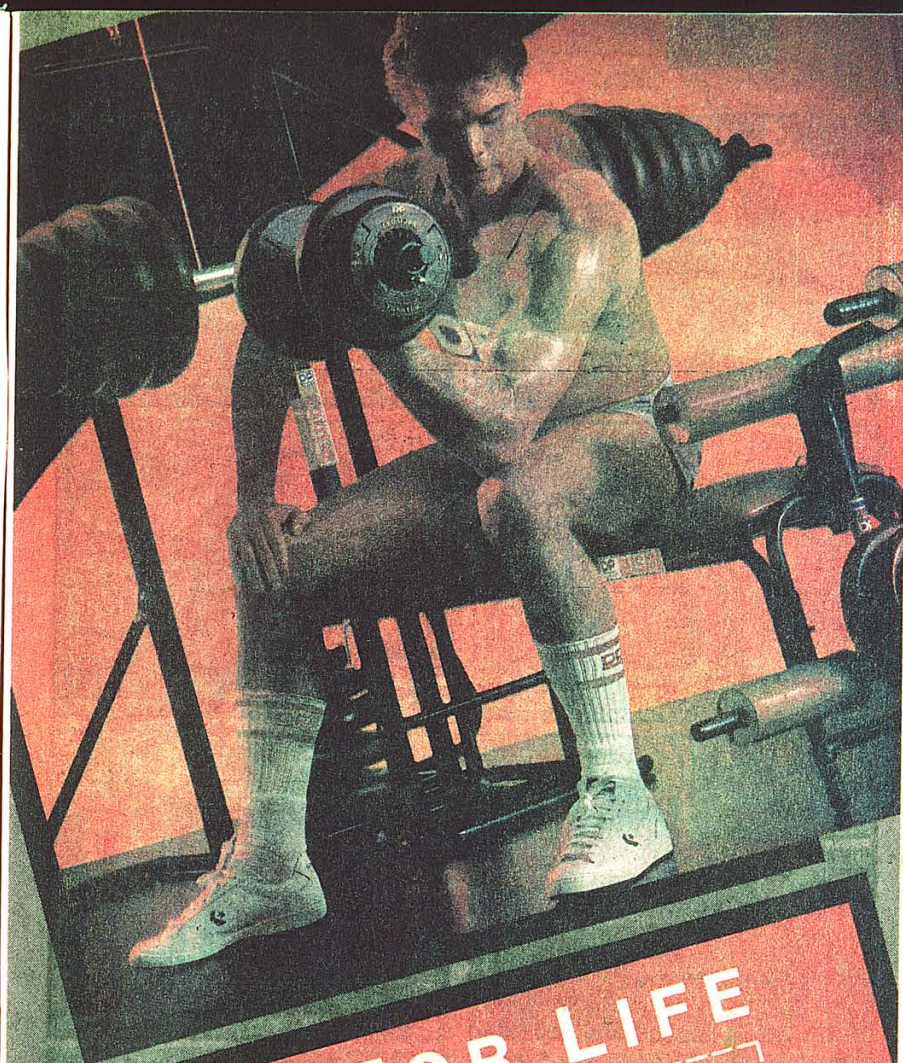
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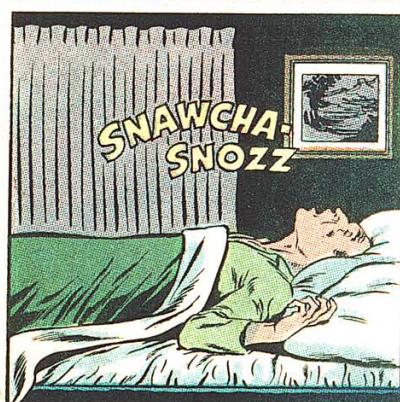
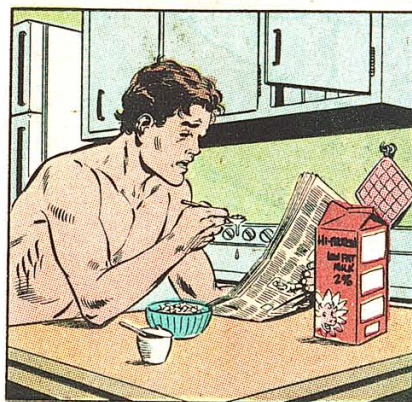
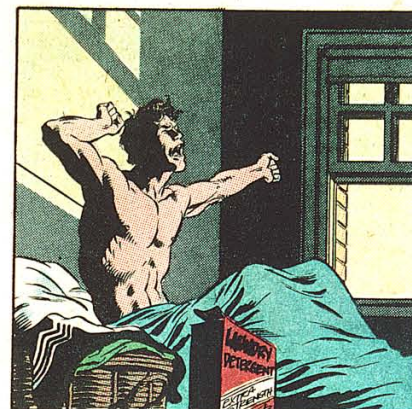
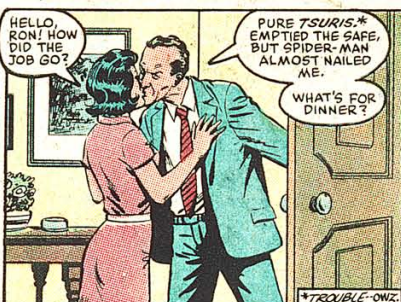
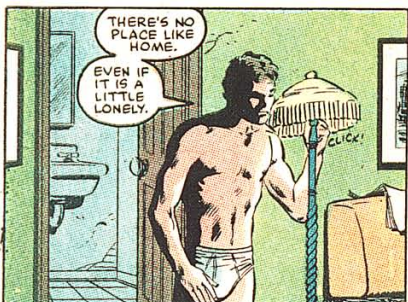
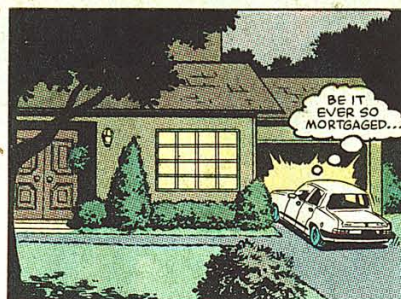
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I'M IN A SLUMP, COACH.

IT'S THE TOP OF THE 7TH INNING AND THE SCORE IS TIED 5 TO 5.

OH, C'MON BUNNY, WIN THIS ONE AND THERE'S NESTLÉ QUIK FOR EVERYONE!

QUIK! NESTLÉ QUIK! SO CHOCOLATEY...

SO RICH AND THICK I CAN'T RESIST YOU... **HE'S OUT!**

... NESTLÉ QUIK!!

HOME RUN!

SLURP!

IT WORKS EVERY TIME.

THE END

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I'D FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH FUN I USED TO HAVE TINKERING.

PERHAPS I SHOULD DIG MY OLD HIGH SCHOOL LAB STUFF OUT OF THE CLOSET.

I'VE SWUNG CLEAR ACROSS THE BRONX. LOOKS LIKE I'M SUBURB BOUND.

AH! JUST THE THING FOR A COMMUTING SPIDER-MAN!

SOMETIME LATER...

SCARSDALE, LAST STOP. THANK YOU FOR RIDING METRO--

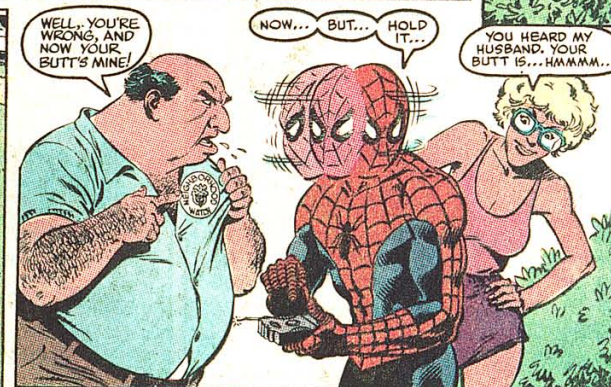
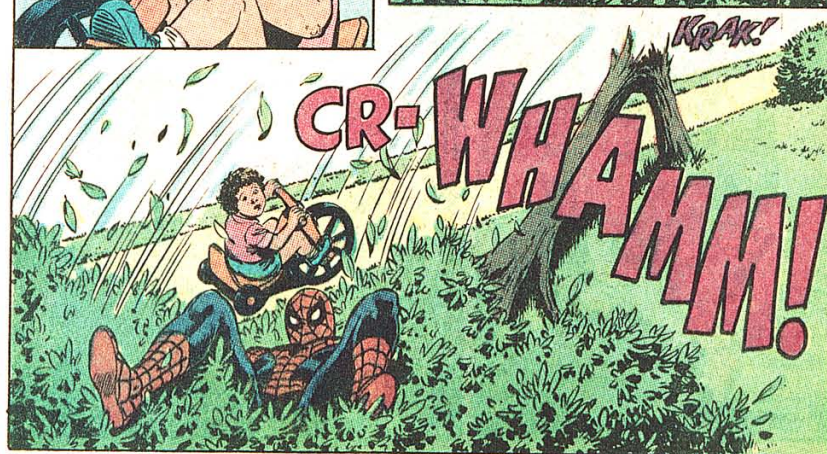
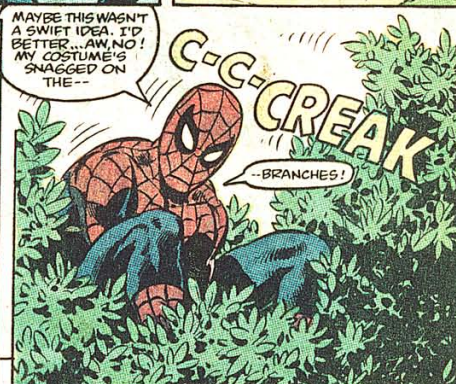
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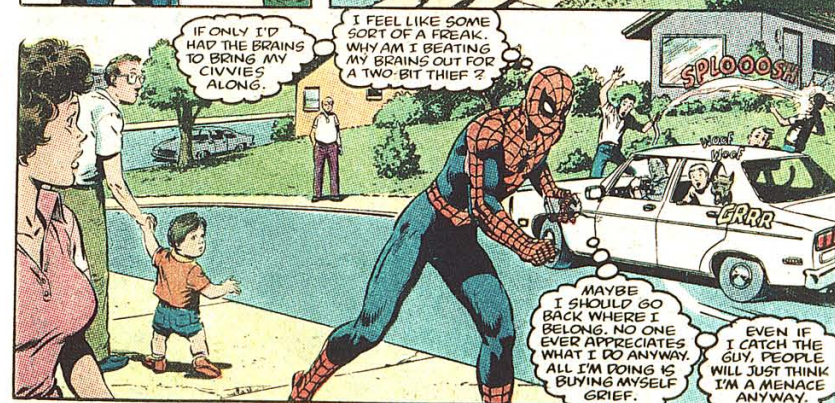
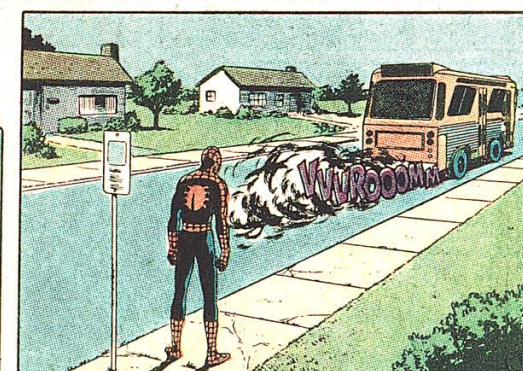
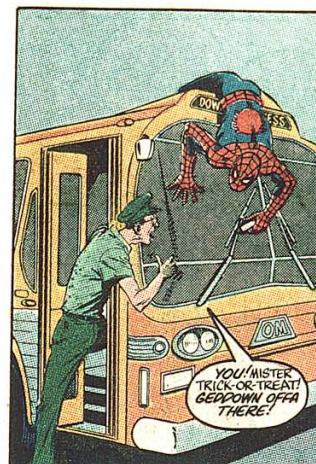
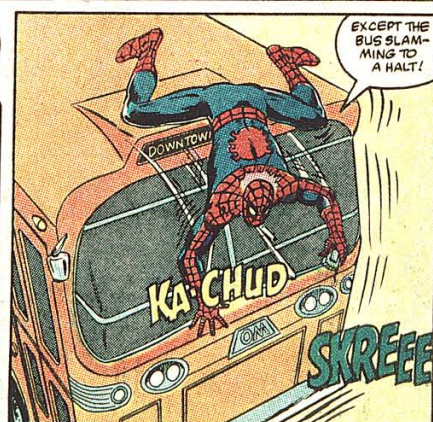
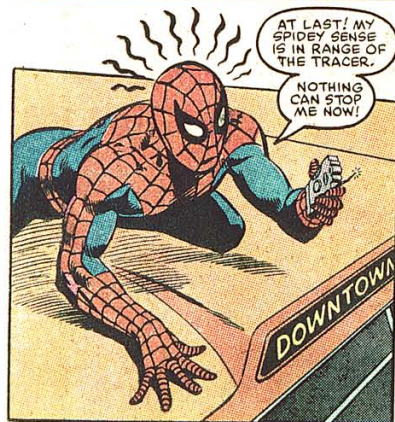
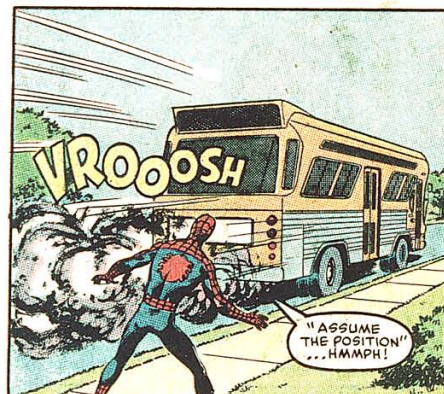
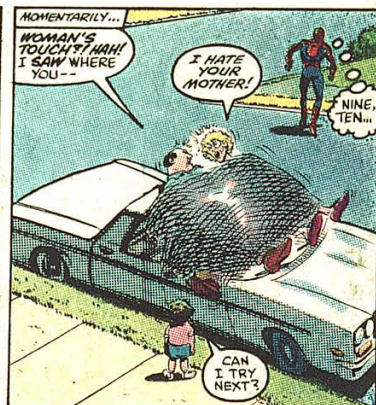
...NORTH?

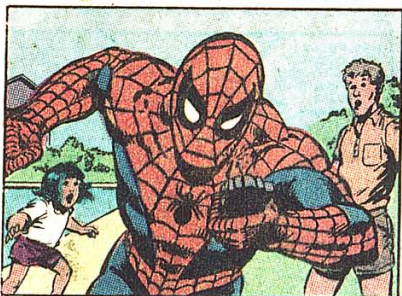
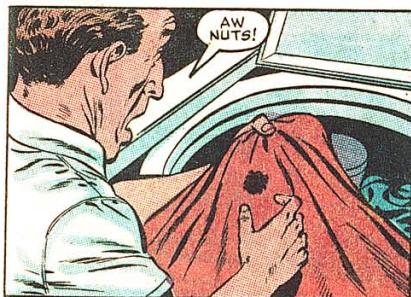
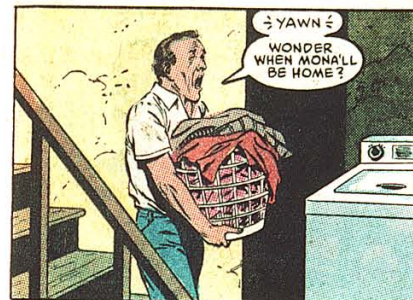
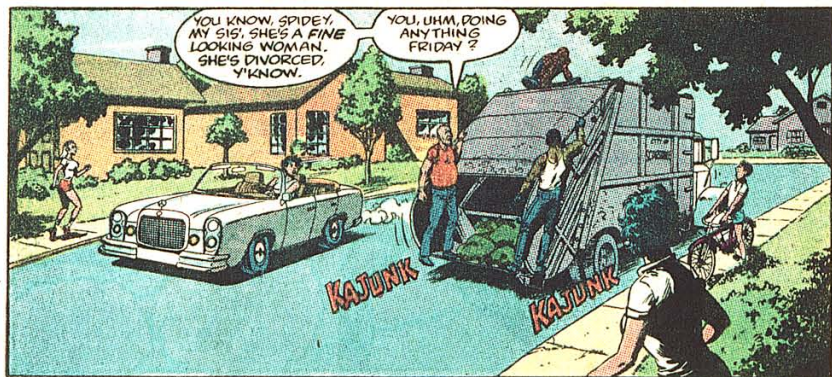
WROOF! WRAR! GRR! SNARL! GAAUF! SNARL!

ROOMF?

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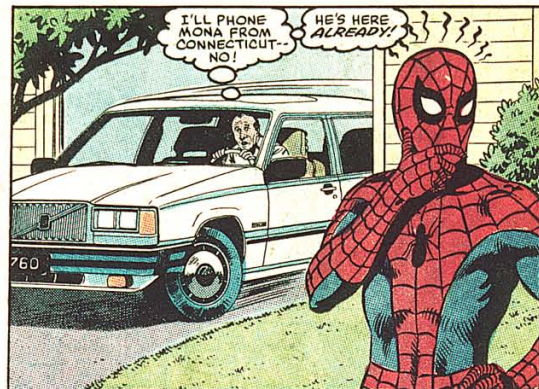




HASTILY GRABBING A SUITCASE AND SOME READY CASH, RON OPTS FOR A QUICK TRIP OUT OF TOWN...

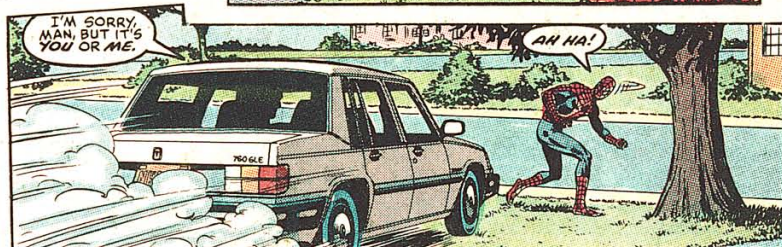


THERE! THAT'LL HOLD US FOR AWHILE.



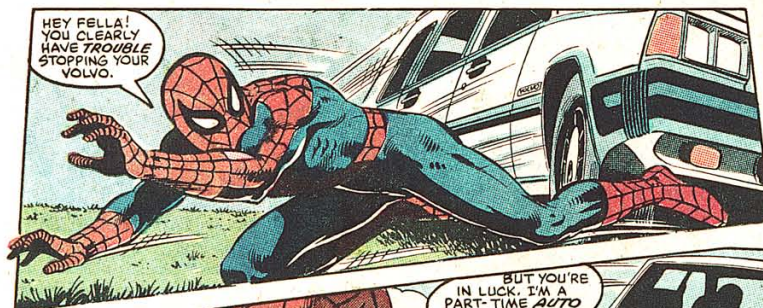
I'LL PHONE MONA FROM CONNECTICUT—NO!

HE'S HERE ALREADY!



I'M SORRY, MAN, BUT IT'S YOU OR ME.

AH HA!



HEY FELLA! YOU CLEARLY HAVE TROUBLE STOPPING YOUR VOLVO.



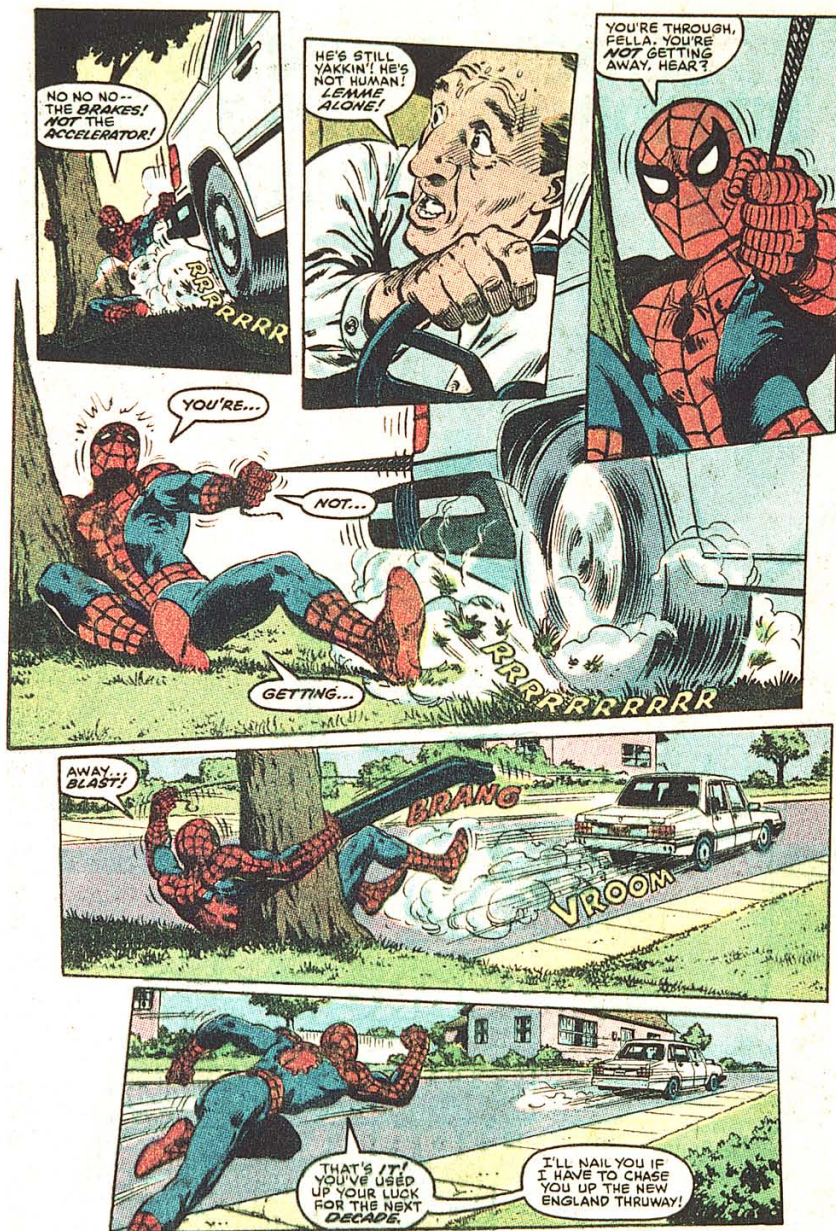
BUT YOU'RE IN LUCK. I'M A PART-TIME AUTO MECHANIC!

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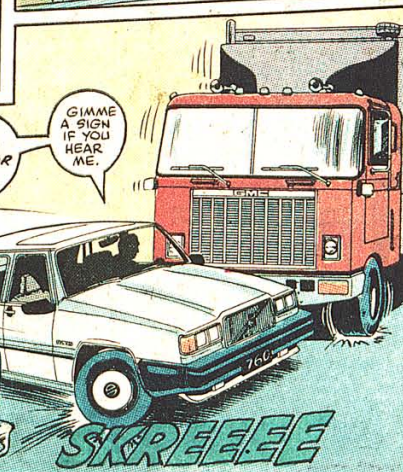
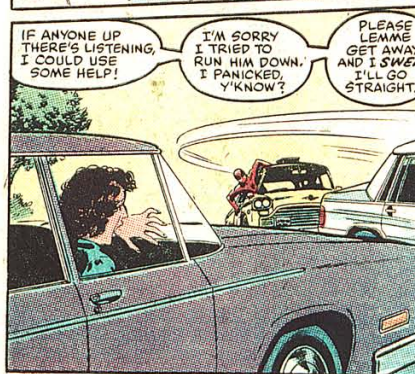
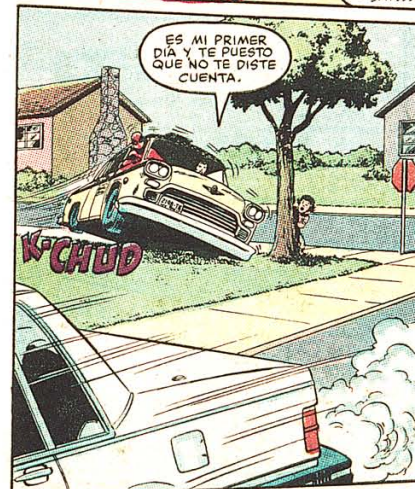
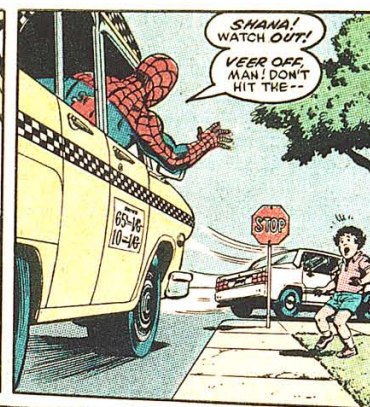
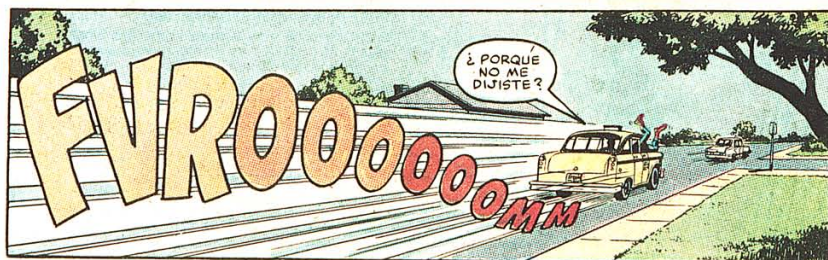
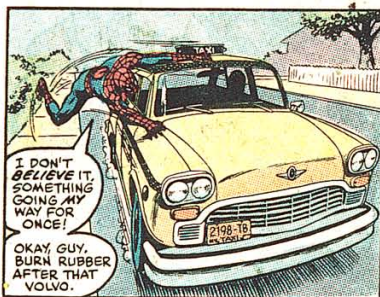
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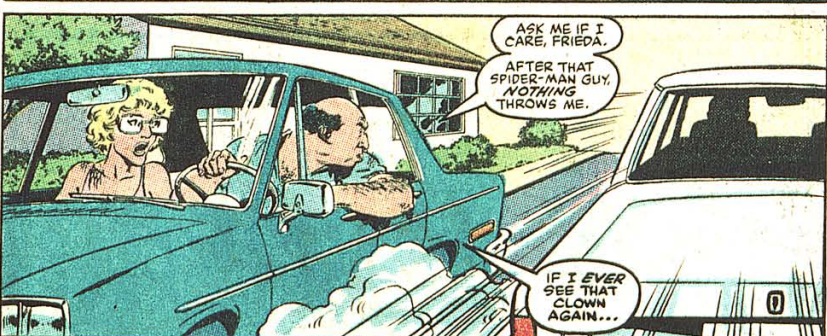
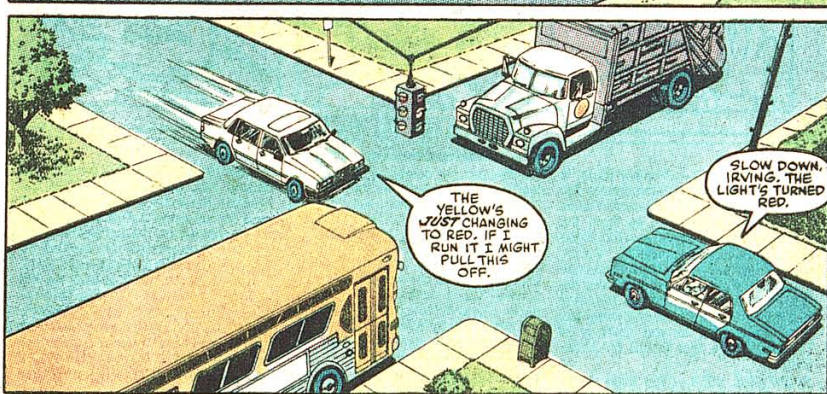
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

AN APOLOGY FROM ARCHIE GOODWIN, EDITOR OF MARVEL'S EPIC COMICS LINE

The last time Editor-in-Chief Jim Shooter let me use this space, there were complaints that I contributed nothing more than a glorified *Hype Box* for Epic's first newsstand comic, *Groo The Wanderer*. Okay! So I got a bit excited over a crack at the Big time! I'm sorry. Even though we've just launched another newsstand title, *Jim Starlin's DREADSTAR AND COMPANY*, I've learned my lesson. I won't say a word to plug it.



Well, you can't stop a guy from thinking. After all, *DREADSTAR* is one of the most successful deluxe edition, specialty shop titles ever. But now, in addition, we've got the popular-priced, seventy-five cent *DREADSTAR AND COMPANY* available everywhere! You can follow this comic saga from the beginning... monthly! The second issue's coming out this month... Grab issue one while it lasts! And rest easy... with an ad for our next newsstand Epic Comic, *ELFQUEST* right below, I won't be pulling any other sneaky plugola tactics here.



HYPE BOX

DAREDEVIL #221 — Heather Glenn is dead, and Daredevil is determined to find out who's responsible! His search takes the sightless adventurer far from the gleaming skyscrapers of New York to the night-enshrouded canals of Venice, where a mysterious and deadly organization called the Council of Ten rules supreme! And all they want is Daredevil dead! Check out this tale of mystery and revenge, brought to you courtesy of DENNY O'NEIL and DAVID MAZZUCHELLI.

AVENGERS #258 — You think you've seen Earth's Mightiest Heroes in tough spots before? Forget it! Having watched

the Savage Land destroyed and then defeating the world-devourer, Terminus, the Avengers return home for a well-deserved rest only to discover that they must face the wrath of *Firelord*, one of the most powerful beings in the universe! How can everyone's favorite assemblers handle Galactus's most hot-headed herald and survive? Guest-starring *Spider-Man*! Reserve your copy now of this exciting tale brought to you by writer ROGER STERN and artistic team-supreme JOHN BUSCEMA and TOM PALMER.

RAWHIDE KID #1 — He's faster on the draw than Wyatt Earp! He's rustled up more desperados than Buffalo Bill Cody!

He can give Bat Masterson a run for his money! Yep, that's right, pard'ner, the Rawhide Kid is back — in his own four issue limited-series! But he may not be the Kid you remember. The Old West is dying, and this ol' gunslinger has decided it's time to hang up his six shooters for good. Trouble is, no matter how hard the Kid tries, he can't escape his past or his reputation. BILL MANTLO, HERB TRIMPE and JOHN SEVERIN have combined their talents to create a Western action-adventure series with a twist! Try it — even if you're not a horse opera fan. You'll be glad you did.

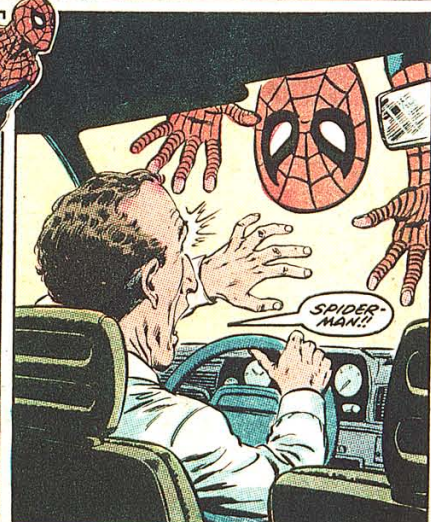
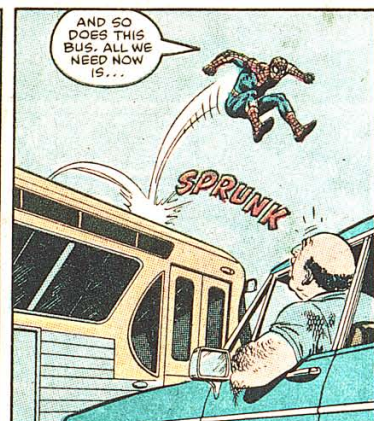
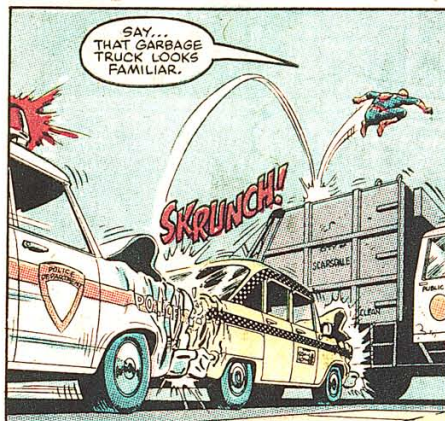
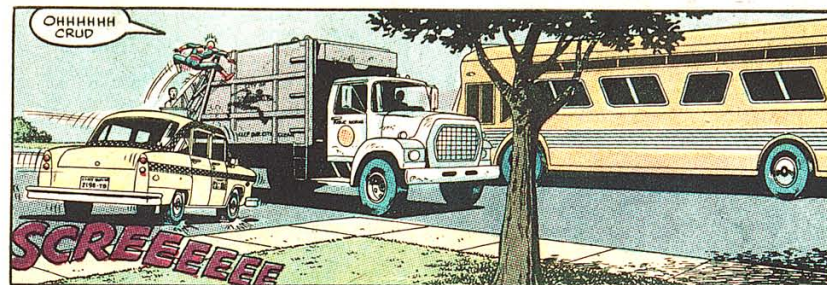
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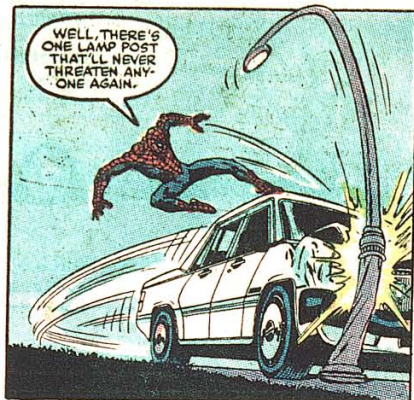
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AND TRIED TO BEAT THE FARE.

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AND WEBBED A DOBBIE. DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE DOBBIE.



QUE PASA?

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GOLD FEVER!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
KEITH WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

I can't tell you anything about next issue. I'm now allowed to say anything about the seemingly endless series of high-level meetings between SECRET WARS II boy genius Jim Shooter (Marvel Editor in Chief), AMAZING SPIDER-MAN writer extraordinaire Tom DeFalco (Marvel Executive Editor) and WEB OF SPIDER-MAN superb scribe Danny Fingeroth (Marvel Comic Relief). I can't say how high the decibel level of the shouting matches were. I can't mention how much we spent on coffee and doughnuts the guy at the corner store just put down on a Mercedes.... All I can say is this:

Next month SECRET WARS II #2, features the beginning of a Spidey-adventure that will culminate with his making a decision that will haunt him forever. WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #6 carries the second installment, with the climax to occur here next issue. That's all I can tell you. I'll leave the rest to Jim, Tom, and Danny. Loose lips sink ships.
— Jim Owsley

SEND ALL LETTERS TO:
Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South,
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and address. We will, however, withhold them
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Dear Spider Writers,
I'd like to get right to the point. I'm getting sick of incredible plots, awesome lettering, and far-out covers. Please make my collection complete and make a mistake for once.
David Sweet
1262 Placentia Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92806

Forget it, David.

Dear Wall-Crawlers,
I've never written to "The Amazing Spider-Man" before, even though he's one of my favorite characters, but I'd like to say something about number 263. As soon as I opened it, I said, "Uh-oh, it's that kid from Peter Parker 72," but it was pretty good. I turned the page again and said, "He's trying to be a hero again." I turned the page once more and said, "Figures." I even turned the page again and said, "Huh? Black Cat and Spider-Man?" You won't believe this, but I turned the page again and I said, "Spidey changed to Peter Parker, where's the landlord?" The pageth hath turneth again and I said, "Hmmm, the kid's private life." Then, a streak of blue lightning turned the page and I said, "Harry, calm down." A hurricane blew the page and I said, "More of the kid's private life." I turned to page 12 and said, "Peter, you've got problems." Then my eyes wandered to page 13 and I said, "What? What's going on? BY ODIN'S BEARD, HE'S GOT THE COSTUME!! WAY TO GO, TOM!!" Then I looked at the last page and said, "Rats."

Jeff Logan
3795 Clubland Terrace
Marietta, GA 30067

Spidey's the only masked adventurer who has two distinctive union suits, Jeff. We expect both to be around for a long time. If you're a black suit fanatic, there's two books you must pick up this month. One is AVENGERS #258, which not only features the mighty Avengers' clash with the fearsome Firelord, but has a special preview of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #269! Get a jump on your neighbors with this special sneak peek at the awesome events down the road, brought to you by Roger Stern, John Buscema, and Tom Palmer. The other absolute necessity is the spectacular debut of SECRET WARS III Marvel Editor in Chief Jim Shooter and former PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN writer / artist Al Milgrom join finisher Steve Lialoia in bringing you the hands-down winner of 1985. Issue #1 is on sale now. Issue #2 features Spider-Man (in his black threads, 'natch) in a special story that will change Webhead's life forever. AVENGERS #258 and SECRET WARS II #1, on sale now. Grab 'em, folks. Don't goof up.

Dear Spider-People,
I'm a subtle incarnation of the Burma-Shave sign in Pete's room (Every day in every way I am getting better and better) on page seven of Spidey #263 sums up all my feelings of the last dozen or so issues of our favorite web-slinger. Each issue gives us a terrific story and dynamic art that just keeps getting... "better and better!"

Concerning #263 ("Spectacular Spider-Kid") specifically, it was just an all-around fun issue! Ollie Osnick was a delight and considering how well those tentacles of his walked over rooftops (and excluding his clumsiness) he really earned the title of "spectacular." Let's hope this kid never starts making weapons and gadgets for un-clumsy villains!

As for the Black Cat sequence... well... at last maybe Spidey won't see her for awhile and it'll be one worry off his list of many. You can't love someone unless you trust them first.

It was very uplifting to see Harry's wife and baby make it through their ordeal without any consequences. It was a load off Pete's mind, too, and hopefully this good mood will have the effect of Pete starting to deal with his

other problems, like the situation with Aunt May, with a fresh and open mind.
Keep up the great work!

John Bach
565 Amherst Lane
Hoffman Est., IL 60195

Dear Spider-Gang,
I waited patiently for the inevitable controversy over Spider-Man's new costume before tossing my thoughts into what has proven to be a lively nation-wide debate. My position on the matter may be unique: I don't care which outfit Peter Parker dons to fight evil, because in the long run, it doesn't really matter.

In issue #100, when America was stunned by a six-armed Spider-Man, you came out on the cover. "The Spider or The Man?" That question has been asked many times over, in one form or another, and the answer has consistently been "the man." Peter is a man, and his powers are, if anything, an extension of his humanity. Whether he is in street clothes or in full spider-garb, his personality remains consistent. He cares, he loves, he is vulnerable, and he can be hurt in ways others than a beating from some super-foe. Witness the tragedies of Uncle Ben, Captain Stacy, and Gwen Stacy. Costume or not, Peter suffers. Yes, he always changes after these sad events, but always for the better. He matures as a person, which naturally adds dimension to his supercounterpart. In other words, it's the man who makes the hero, not the costume.

Whether Peter wears his classic blue and red costume, or the chic new black version, he is still Peter. Hence, Spider-Man is still Spider-Man. But since he is still Peter, he can never become "the spider." When Peter grew these extra arms after trying to rid himself of his powers he learned a valuable lesson about his own humanity. Perhaps life was difficult as a Spider-Man, but it was nightmarish as a "Man-Spider." Peter relates too much to his human side to ever sacrifice a portion of it. And he does recognize his "gift" and accepts it, albeit reluctantly. Though he may sometimes experience dismay at his lot in life, he would never truly give it up. He would feel incomplete. Conversely, he would never allow the spider to take over either, which is why I believe his relationship with the Black Cat is doomed. She loves the spider, not the man. Peter wants both sides of himself to be loved equally, otherwise any relationship would be incomplete. Mary Jane, on the other hand, knows Peter's secret, and accepts it. Though their relationship is platonic (as of this writing), she has a far better chance of winning over Peter (and Spider-Man) than the Black Cat ever will.

When I read those many letters in issue #259, I could not help being annoyed at the letter from Valerio Oss. Certainly he can dislike the new costume, but he can't seem to see beneath it. He states that Peter is "not the same Spider-Man anymore," and vows not to read another Marvel magazine. A shame! And so wrong. Peter never changed with the new costume, and, of course, neither did Spider-Man. Peter and Spidey may have become intrigued with the costume, but they were not obsessed with it. And, as was seen, when Peter learned that the costume was slowly taking over, he unhesitatingly dumped it. He refused to lose his humanity to an alien life-form which would have turned him into "the spider" forever. And what happened to Peter right after he got rid of the new outfit? He is made the brunt of a delightful practical joke by Johnny Storm, his closest super-friend! A wonderful re-affirmation of Peter "the man."

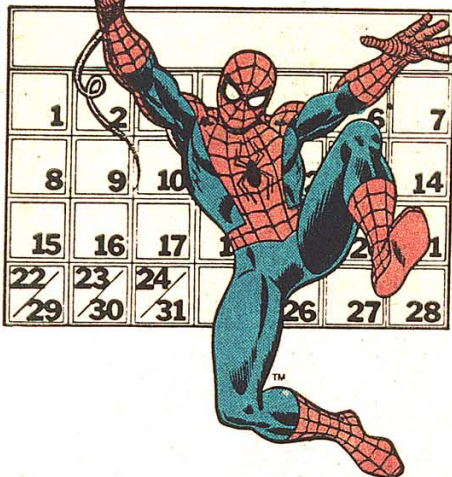
Perhaps these thoughts on the matter of Spider-Man, Peter, and the new costume seem a bit random, but it could not be helped. I grew up with Spider-Man, and he was (and still is) a part of my life.

Bob Schreiber
81 Dictum Ct.
Brooklyn, NY 11229

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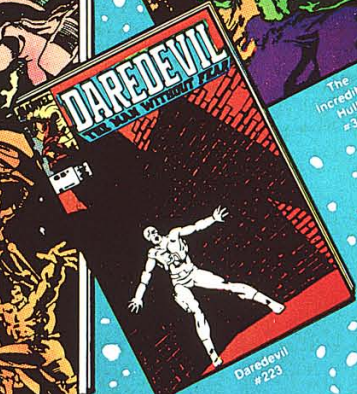
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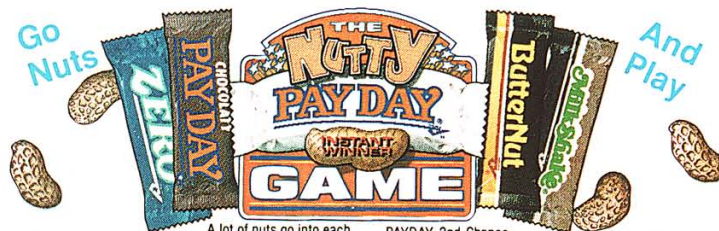
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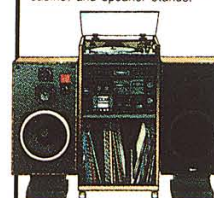
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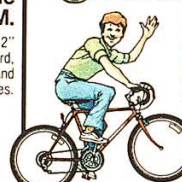
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